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*Wanda J. Lawrence*  
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Date of signature and deposit - 05-07-07

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
STEVEN D. JODER et al. ) Group Art Unit 3693  
)  
Serial No. 10/623,478 ) Examiner Sanjeev Malhotra  
)  
Filed: July 18, 2003 ) Confirmation No. 4551  
)  
For: METHOD, APPARATUS AND SYSTEM ) Attorney Docket 1-23428  
FOR QUALITY PERFORMANCE )  
EVALUATION OF A SUPPLIER BASE )

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Commissioner For Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

RESPONSE

Honorable Sir:

Reconsideration of the above-identified application is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

REMARKS

The Examiner noted several objections to the drawings. Formal drawings that address such objections are being obtained and will be filed shortly.

In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that he "gives .... the current US non-provisional application ... a priority date of May 16, 2001, when the second (#60/291,443) of the three US provisional applications in this matter was filed." This statement is incorrect because the Examiner does not "give" priority dates. This application claims priority to three different provisional applications and has incorporated by reference the disclosures of such provisional applications. Thus, with respect to the subject matter disclosed in each of the provisional applications, this application is entitled to each of the claimed priority dates.